

## **TJSHS Student Personal Electronic Device Policy**

This policy will cover personal electronic devices such as but not limited to: Smartphones, iPod touch, tablets, hand-held video consoles, etc.

### **Rationale:**

Student personal electronic usage has become an increasing concern in the classrooms at TJSHS. Some concerns include:

- Students being unable to concentrate on their learning while in possession of their technology.
- The distraction of notifications, text messages, phone calls, social media and games.
- Students leaving class to receive personal phone calls or respond to messages.
- Distraction of the aforementioned alerts to other students in class.
- Photos and videos being secretly taken that breach the Freedom of Information and Privacy Act and Black Gold School Division's acceptable technology use policies.
- The increased frequency in society of cyber-bullying through social media.
- The increased levels of reported student addiction to personal electronic devices.
- The inability to directly correlate personal electronic device usage positively to academic success.

### **TJSHS Classroom Policies:**

- Students will be permitted to use personal electronic devices before school, during breaks, during lunch hour, on school buses and after school.
- A class spare for high school students will be considered a break.
- Students will be expected to securely store their personal electronic devices in their locker prior to arriving at class. They should not be stored in backpacks, purses, pockets etc.
  - In some classrooms storage locations will be provided for example a bin at the front of the room or a wall hanger, students can use these locations, however, the most safe and secure place will be locked in their locker.
- Electronic devices can be brought to class at the request of the teacher for uses in curricular activities.
- In accordance with the Education Act staff members may confiscate a personal electronic device if they are found present in the classroom.
- The Gymnasium, Industrial Arts Lab, Computer Lab, Cosmetology Lab, Foods Lab, Band Room and Library will be considered a classroom

### **Music while working**

- Students will be permitted to bring an MP3 player to class to listen to music while working if previously approved by a staff member. Cellphones, ipod touches, tablets, gaming devices or any device with two-way wireless connectivity options will not be considered MP3 players.

## **Consequences for inappropriate use of personal electronic devices at TJSHS**

**1st/2nd offence:** The device will be confiscated for the remainder of the class period and returned by the teacher. Incident will be noted in PowerSchool.

**3rd/4th offence:** The device will be confiscated for the remainder of the day. Device can be picked up by the student from the principal/designate. Student will review with the principal/designate this policy and will be asked to sign the document indicating their understanding of this policy. Incident will be noted in PowerSchool.

**5th offence:** Should a device need to be confiscated for a fifth time, it will be considered an act of defiance and the student will be suspended from school. At this point the device will also need to be picked up from the office by a parent/guardian of the student. The principal/designate will review this policy with the parent and ask them to sign it to indicate their understanding of this policy.

**Note:** If a student refuses to hand over a personal electronic device they will be asked to leave class to speak to the principal/designate and it will be treated as an act of defiance.

### **TJSHS Vision:**

By implementing this policy, TJSHS aspires to enhance student learning. TJSHS is committed to being a safe and caring school. It is our goal to provide students with a distraction-free and focused learning environment, one in which students can focus on the task at hand. TJSHS remains committed to better prepare students for the expectations of their future working environments.

### **Contacting Students During Classtime:**

In a situation where a parent/guardian must urgently contact a student during class time, calls are to be directed to the school office (780) 789-3983 who will then relay the information to the student. In the event of a parent needs to talk to a student again please call the school.